

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 620

To establish a demonstration project to train unemployed workers for employment as health care professionals, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 15, 2007

Mr. FEINGOLD (for himself and Ms. MIKULSKI) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To establish a demonstration project to train unemployed workers for employment as health care professionals, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Community-Based
5 Health Care Retraining Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. HEALTH PROFESSIONS TRAINING DEMONSTRATION**
 2 **PROJECT.**

3 Section 171 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998
 4 (29 U.S.C. 2916) is amended by adding at the end the
 5 following:

6 “(e) HEALTH PROFESSIONS TRAINING DEMONSTRA-
 7 TION PROJECT.—

8 “(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

9 “(A) COVERED COMMUNITY.—The term
 10 ‘covered community’ means a community or re-
 11 gion that—

12 “(i) has experienced a significant per-
 13 centage decline in positions in the manu-
 14 facturing or service sectors; and

15 “(ii) is determined by the Secretary of
 16 Health and Human Services (in consulta-
 17 tion with the medical community) to be an
 18 area with a shortage of health care profes-
 19 sionals described in clause (i) or (ii) of
 20 subparagraph (C).

21 “(B) COVERED WORKER.—The term ‘cov-
 22 ered worker’ means an individual who—

23 “(i)(I) has been terminated or laid
 24 off, or who has received a notice of termi-
 25 nation or layoff, from employment in a
 26 manufacturing or service sector;

1 “(II)(aa) is eligible for or has ex-
2 hausted entitlement to unemployment com-
3 pensation; or

4 “(bb) has been employed for a dura-
5 tion sufficient to demonstrate, to the ap-
6 propriate entity at a one-stop center re-
7 ferred to in section 134(c), attachment to
8 the workforce, but is not eligible for unem-
9 ployment compensation due to insufficient
10 earnings or having performed services for
11 an employer that were not covered under a
12 State unemployment compensation law;
13 and

14 “(III) is unlikely to return to a pre-
15 vious industry or occupation; or

16 “(ii)(I) has been terminated or laid
17 off, or has received a notice of termination
18 or layoff, from employment in a manufac-
19 turing or service sector as a result of any
20 permanent closure of, or any substantial
21 layoff at, a plant, facility, or enterprise; or

22 “(II) is employed in a manufacturing
23 or service sector at a facility at which the
24 employer has made a general announce-

1 ment that such facility will close within
2 180 days.

3 “(C) HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONAL.—The
4 term ‘health care professional’—

5 “(i) means an individual who is in-
6 volved with—

7 “(I) the delivery of health care
8 services, or related services, pertaining
9 to—

10 “(aa) the identification,
11 evaluation, and prevention of dis-
12 eases, disorders, or injuries; or

13 “(bb) home-based or com-
14 munity-based long-term care;

15 “(II) the delivery of dietary and
16 nutrition services; or

17 “(III) rehabilitation and health
18 systems management; and

19 “(ii) with respect to a covered commu-
20 nity to be served through a grant made
21 under paragraph (3), includes individuals
22 in health care professions and jobs for
23 which there is a shortage in the commu-
24 nity, as determined by the Secretary of
25 Health and Human Services (in consulta-

tion with the medical community), giving consideration to the amount of training time required to retrain the covered workers for the health care professions and jobs.

“(D) TRIBAL COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY.—

The term ‘tribal college or university’ means—

“(i) a tribally controlled college or university, as defined in section 2 of the Tribally Controlled College or University Assistance Act of 1978 (25 U.S.C. 1801);

“(ii) Diné College, authorized in the Navajo Community College Act (25 U.S.C. 640a et seq.); and

“(iii) any of the 1994 Institutions, as defined in section 532 of the Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 301 note).

“(2) ESTABLISHMENT OF PROJECT.—In accordance with subsection (b), the Secretary shall establish and carry out a health professions training demonstration project.

“(3) GRANTS.—In carrying out the project, the Secretary, after consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, shall make grants to

1 eligible entities to enable the entities to carry out
 2 programs in covered communities to train covered
 3 workers for employment as health care professionals.
 4 The Secretary shall make each grant in an amount
 5 of not less than \$100,000 and not more than
 6 \$500,000.

7 “(4) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—Notwithstanding
 8 subsection (b)(2)(B), to be eligible to receive a grant
 9 under this subsection to carry out a program in a
 10 covered community, an entity shall be a partnership
 11 that is—

12 “(A) under the direction of a local work-
 13 force investment board established under sec-
 14 tion 117 that is serving the covered community;
 15 and

16 “(B) composed of members serving the
 17 covered community, such as—

18 “(i) an institution of higher education
 19 that provides a 4-year program of instruc-
 20 tion;

21 “(ii) an accredited community college;

22 “(iii) an accredited vocational or tech-
 23 nical school;

24 “(iv) a tribal college or university;

25 “(v) a health clinic or hospital;

1 “(vi) a home-based or community-
2 based long-term care facility or program;
3 or

4 “(vii) a health care facility adminis-
5 tered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

6 “(5) APPLICATIONS.—To be eligible to receive a
7 grant under this subsection, an entity shall submit
8 an application to the Secretary at such time, in such
9 manner, and containing such information as the Sec-
10 retary may require, including, at a minimum—

11 “(A) a proposal to use the grant funds to
12 establish or expand a training program in order
13 to train covered workers for employment as
14 health care professionals (including paraprofes-
15 sionals);

16 “(B) information demonstrating the need
17 for the training and support services to be pro-
18 vided through the program;

19 “(C) information describing the manner in
20 which the entity will expend the grant funds,
21 and the activities to be carried out with the
22 funds;

23 “(D) information demonstrating that the
24 entity meets the requirements of paragraph (4);
25 and

1 “(E) with respect to training programs
2 carried out by the applicant, information—

3 “(i) on the graduation rates of the
4 programs involved;

5 “(ii) on the retention measures car-
6 ried out by the applicant;

7 “(iii) on the length of time necessary
8 to complete the training programs of the
9 applicant; and

10 “(iv) on the number of qualified cov-
11 ered workers that are refused admittance
12 into the training programs because of lack
13 of capacity.

14 “(6) SELECTION.—In making grants under
15 paragraph (3), the Secretary, after consultation with
16 the Secretary of Health and Human Services,
17 shall—

18 “(A) consider the information submitted by
19 the eligible entities under paragraph (5)(E);
20 and

21 “(B) select—

22 “(i) eligible entities submitting appli-
23 cations that meet such criteria as the Sec-
24 retary of Labor determines to be appro-
25 priate; and

1 “(ii) among such entities, the eligible
 2 entities serving the covered communities
 3 with the greatest need for the grants and
 4 the greatest potential to benefit from the
 5 grants.

6 “(7) USE OF FUNDS.—

7 “(A) IN GENERAL.—An entity that re-
 8 ceives a grant under this subsection shall use
 9 the funds made available through the grant for
 10 training and support services that meet the
 11 needs described in the application submitted
 12 under paragraph (5), which may include—

13 “(i) increasing capacity, subject to
 14 subparagraph (B), at an educational insti-
 15 tution or training center to train individ-
 16 uals for employment as health profes-
 17 sionals, such as by—

18 “(I) expanding a facility, subject
 19 to subparagraph (B);

20 “(II) expanding course offerings;

21 “(III) hiring faculty;

22 “(IV) providing a student loan
 23 repayment program for the faculty;

24 “(V) establishing or expanding
 25 clinical education opportunities;

1 “(VI) purchasing equipment,
2 such as computers, books, clinical
3 supplies, or a patient simulator; or

4 “(VII) conducting recruitment;
5 or

6 “(ii) providing support services for
7 covered workers participating in the train-
8 ing, such as—

9 “(I) providing tuition assistance;

10 “(II) establishing or expanding
11 distance education programs;

12 “(III) providing transportation
13 assistance; or

14 “(IV) providing child care.

15 “(B) LIMITATION.—To be eligible to use
16 the funds to expand a facility, the eligible entity
17 shall demonstrate to the Secretary in an appli-
18 cation submitted under paragraph (5) that the
19 entity can increase the capacity described in
20 subparagraph (A)(i) of such facility only by ex-
21 panding the facility.

22 “(8) FUNDING.—Of the amounts appropriated
23 to, and available at the discretion of, the Secretary
24 or the Secretary of Health and Human Services for
25 programmatic and administrative expenditures, a

1 total of \$25,000,000 shall be used to establish and
2 carry out the demonstration project described in
3 paragraph (2) in accordance with this subsection.”.

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